Biographical Notes

Biographical sketches of contributing authors are included below. The codes and awards that follow the National Speleological Society (NSS) member numbers are explained here:

HM  Honorary Member of the NSS
OS  William J. Stephenson Outstanding Service Award
RL  Regular Life Member
CM  Certificate of Merit
CO  Conservation Award
LB  Lew Bicking Award
PH  Peter M. Hauer Spelean History Award
FE  Fellow of the Society

James F. Baichtal, NSS #33277 FE
Jim Baichtal has 23 years experience with the U.S. Federal Government as an engineering and resource geologist. He graduated from Washington State University with a B.S. in Geology (1980) and an M.S. in Geology (1982). Since 1990, Baichtal has worked as the Forest geologist on the Tongass National Forest with responsibilities for developing karst and cave resource management strategies addressing the effects of timber harvest and road construction on the karst systems of Southeast Alaska. He has worked both nationally and internationally on karst resource issues. Baichtal is involved with an active public education program where he teaches about the geologic and glacial history of Southeast Alaska and the karst ecosystem and cave resources on the Forest.

Hazel A. Barton, Ph.D., NSS #38864
Hazel Barton received her Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Following post-doctoral work studying microbial ecology and physiology, Dr. Barton is presently the Ashland Endowed Professor of Integrative Sciences and an Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at Northern Kentucky University. Her work includes a National Institutes of Health funded study examining Salmonellae adaptation to starvation, and the interactions of microbial communities in starved cave environments, funded in part by the National Science Foundation KY EPSCoR program. Barton is also a director of the National Speleological Society and the Quintana Roo Speleological Survey. She is an accomplished cave cartographer. Barton’s work has been featured in Sports Illustrated, Forbes, National Geographic Explorer, Outside Magazine, on National Public Radio, and in an IMAX documentary.

Jonathan B. Beard, NSS #21408 RL FE
Jon Beard has been employed as an industrial training designer since 1989. He began caving in 1970 in Kansas and moved to the Missouri Ozarks in 1978. In 1983, vandalized Breakdown Cave was gated by local cavers. Beard directs the management of the cave as a restoration laboratory and classroom. Using many types of adhesives produced at the factory where he works, he has experimented with ways to reattach broken speleothems. He uses a variety of methods to remove calcified muddy handprints and graffiti. Beard currently helps manage several gated caves located on private properties.

Thomas B. Bemis, NSS #16184
Tom Bemis has been caving since 1970 and has worked for the National Park Service at Carlsbad Caverns National Park since 1979. He currently works for the cave resources office at Carlsbad Caverns, overseeing cave rescue, recreational caving, cave restoration, and cave impact monitoring programs within the park. Bemis also teaches
vertical caving and cave rescue for the National Park Service and New Mexico State University, and teaches cave rescue for the High Guads Restoration Project, National Cave Rescue Commission, New Mexico State Police, and New Mexico Emergency Service Council. He is past chairman of the Southwest Region of the NSS, past co-editor of the Southwestern Caver, and past editorial assistant for the NSS News.

Barbara Bilbo, NSS #39800
Barbara Bilbo attended San Diego State and University of New Mexico, receiving a dual B.S. degree in Geology and Geography. She then received an M.S. in Library Sciences from the University of Illinois, Urbana. While employed at Texas Tech University as a Science Reference, Government Documents, and Map Librarian, she completed a course of study with the International Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Land Studies (ICASALS) and received her second M.S. Bilbo’s principal interests include Holocene and recent environmental development and change in the southwestern U.S. and Mexico. Her research papers have been published in the Geological Society of America Bulletin, El Paso Archaeological Society Bulletin (The Artifact), Southwest Federation of Archaeological Societies proceedings, annual papers of the American Rock Art Research Association (American Indian Rock Art), and the National Cave and Karst Management Symposia.

Michael Bilbo, NSS #14994
Mike Bilbo has been a member of the NSS since 1974 and the El Paso Archaeological Society since 1968. Bilbo served in the U.S. Army Infantry overseas and the U.S. Army Reserve totaling 30 years. He received a B.S. from Texas Tech University in Park Administration. In the early 1990s he began working in New Mexico and Nevada as an outdoor recreation planner/cave specialist with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For seven years, Bilbo has managed Fort Stanton and Torgacs Caves National Landmarks and other New Mexico BLM caves. He coordinated initial science and survey trips into the Fort Stanton Cave Snowy River system and wrote comprehensive environmental assessments regarding digging and documentation of resources in Fort Stanton Cave. Bilbo helped found four NSS Grottos, and he has published in many archaeological journals on identifying and restoring dark zone rock art in New Mexico, west Texas, and northern Mexico.

Hans G. Bodenhamer, NSS #18668 FE
Hans Bodenhamer worked as a cave specialist for the National Park Service and Forest Service for many years. He developed Visitor Impact Mapping in 1985 while working at Grand Canyon National Park. He has a B.S. in civil engineering, but teaches biology and geology at Bigfork High School in northwestern Montana. As a teacher Bodenhamer continues his work in natural resource management by involving his students in numerous projects with local agencies. His students have won national awards for their efforts to conserve and enhance populations of threatened leopards. Currently his students are mapping and developing monitoring strategies for caves in Glacier National Park. Bodenhamer enjoys teaching and spends summers mapping and studying the geology of Montana’s wilderness caves.

Penelope J. Boston, Ph.D., NSS #44478
Penny Boston is Director of Cave and Karst Studies and Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, in Socorro, New Mexico. Boston is also Associate Director of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute in Carlsbad, New Mexico. She received her Ph.D. from University of Colorado, Boulder. Her research areas include geomicrobiology and astrobiology in extreme environments; human life support issues in space and planetary environments; and use of robotics to assist exploration and science in extreme Earth and extraterrestrial environments. Boston is author of over 100 technical and popular publications, editor of 4 volumes, and author of two upcoming popular books. Her work has been featured in over 100 print and broadcast media outlets over the past dozen years.

Debbie C. Buecher, NSS #10590 FE
Debbie Buecher is a self-employed consulting bat biologist in Tucson, Arizona. She has a B.S. from the University of Arizona in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and is currently completing a Master’s degree in Wildlife Ecology in the School of Natural Resources at the same institution. Her research focuses on acoustic monitoring and inventories for bats, particularly emphasizing community ecology of bat populations. She has conducted bat inventories for Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, and Arizona Game and Fish. Because bats are highly disturbed by human visitation in their roosts, her work emphasizes low-disturbance techniques. As a long-time member of NSS and Cave Research Foundation, Buecher supports both cave exploration and science and has been studying caves since 1970.
Paul Burger, NSS #26452 FE
Paul Burger has been caving since 1984. He graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in 1991 with a B.S. in Geological Engineering and in 1999 with a Masters of Engineering, Geological Engineering. Since 1999, he has been the Park Geologist/Hydrologist for Carlsbad Caverns National Park. His main areas of study are the speleogenesis and sedimentology of alpine caves in the Lime Creek Karst in Colorado and the controls on cave development in Lechuguilla Cave and other caves of the Guadalupe Mountains, New Mexico. Burger is the co-author of *Deep Secrets: The Discovery and Exploration of Lechuguilla Cave and Cave Exploring*, an introductory manual on caving.

Alvin D. Collier, NSS #14546 FE
Al Collier is retired from the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad after working in the mechanical department for 39 years. Al started caving in 1970 in Colorado. He has served as conservation and restoration chair for the five Colorado Grottos, Cave of the Winds, and Glenwood Caverns. Collier has worked on cave restoration and speleothem repair in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and New Mexico.

George M. Crothers, Ph.D., NSS #24150
George M. Crothers is Director of the Museum of Anthropology and Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky. He has a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis. He has been active in cave archaeology since 1980, and a member of the NSS since the early 1980s. His long-term research interest is in the prehistoric use of Mammoth Cave and the Central Kentucky Karst. He is currently on the Cave Research Foundation Board of Directors.

Robert R. Currie, NSS #20615 FE
Bob Currie is a biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Asheville, North Carolina. He has been a member of the NSS and North Carolina’s Flittermouse Grotto since the late 1970s. His main interests are the protection and conservation of cave and mine dependent bats. He is the Service representative on the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium Steering Committee, a director on the board of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, and has been actively involved in mine, cave, karst, and bat management training programs for private, state and federal land managers since the mid-1980s.

Joseph C. Douglas, Ph.D., NSS #20059 FE PH
Joe Douglas is Associate Professor of History at Volunteer State College in Gallatin, Tennessee. He received his Ph.D. in American History from the University of Houston, specializing in the cultural history of the cave environment. An experienced public historian, he is an NSS Fellow and received the prestigious Peter Hauer Spelean History Award. He is a member of the University of Tennessee Cave Archaeology Research Team. His research has appeared in numerous historical, archaeological, and speleological publications. His current research focuses on identification, distribution, and analysis of prehistoric and historic material culture in caves. Douglas has participated in numerous cave preservation projects involving cultural and biological resources. He is currently Social Science Editor for the Journal of Caves and Karst Studies.

Harvey R. DuChene, NSS #6318 FE
Harvey DuChene is a consulting petroleum geologist in Denver, Colorado specializing in the Rocky Mountain and Permian basin regions. He earned B.A.(1968) and M.S.(1973) degrees in geology from the University of New Mexico. His research interests include sulfuric acid speleogenie and the relation-ship between cave development and tectonism along the Rio Grande Rift of Colorado and New Mexico. He has studied the geology and mineralogy of caves in the Guadalupe Mountains, and from 1991—2000, was principal investigator for the Lechuguilla Cave Geology and Mineral Inventory Project for the National Park Service at Carlsbad Caverns. He is the representative for the NSS to the American Geological Institute and is a former Board Chairman of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI), headquartered in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

William R. Elliott, Ph.D., NSS #10847 FE
William R. Elliott (“Bill”) is the cave biologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation. He was trained at UT/Austin and received his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University. His work includes cave conservation, millipede taxonomy, macrophotography, management, education, recreation, and work with private and public cave owners. He has studied cave life in Belize, Mexico, and in many states from Texas to Alaska. He has published numerous scientific articles, and he trains
people in cave ecology and management. Bill is an NSS Fellow, a board member of the Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy, and is active in Bat Conservation International, Missouri Speleological Survey, and the NSS Biology Section. He is a past director of the American Cave Conservation Association and former editor of the Texas Speleological Survey.

Joseph H. Fagan, NSS#10666 FE
Joey Fagan started caving in 1966. He works as a Karst Protection Specialist for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of the Natural Heritage Karst Program. He serves on the Board of the Cave Conservancy of the Virginias and as Secretary of the Virginia Cave Board. Fagan is an NSS Fellow, a founding member of the Blue Ridge Grotto, Conservation Chair of the VPI Cave Club, and is active in the NSS Virginia Region. He is the Caving Coordinator for the Girl Scouts of the Virginia Skyline Council Adventurers Program and is a member of the NSS Youth Group Liaison Committee.

John A. French, NSS #7846 FE
John French dates his earliest cave memory to about 1930. Active caving continues to the present and includes discovery, exploration, and (or) reporting about 60 new findings in Alabama. French led the Alabama Cave Law Drive. He has participated in at least a dozen cave rescues. International cave activities include China, Hungary, and Germany.

James R. Goodbar, NSS #9715 RL FE HM
Jim Goodbar began caving with his parents and two sisters in central Texas at 9 years of age in 1960. He is still actively caving with his wife and son in the Guadalupe Mountains of New Mexico. He earned a B.S. in Park and Recreation Management, Texas A&M 1973, and attended Western Kentucky University graduate program in Cave/Karst Geology and Geomorphology 1979–1981. Much of his career has been with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cave Management Program. Goodbar currently serves as the BLM’s Washington Office Senior Cave and Karst Specialist. He assists the BLM in developing national cave management policy, agreements, manuals, cave management training courses, and assisted the development and implementation of the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act, Regulations, and Implementation Procedures. Caving and cave management assignments have taken him to 15 foreign countries.

Val Hildreth-Werker, NSS #28963 FE
Val Hildreth-Werker has been photographing caves since the 1970s and brings professional experience in medical and commercial photography, animation, multi-image, video production, and broadcast media. She has B.S. and B.A. degrees from Texas Tech University with graduate studies in photography and ecology. For 20-plus years she was the Advisor of a coed High Adventure Explorer Post, leading teenagers on monthly expeditions to mountains, rivers, and caves. Hildreth-Werker started doing cave restoration in 1980. She and Jim Werker study exploration, conservation, and management in caves around the world and conduct seminars and workshops on cave conservation, restoration, and speleothem repair. They work as a team in developing environmental photomonitoring systems for cave and surface environments. Together, they co-chair the NSS Conservation Division.

Rodney D. Horrocks, NSS #25107 CM FE
Rod Horrocks has been the Cave Management Specialist at Wind Cave National Park since 1999. Starting in 1992, he was employed as the first Cave Management Specialist at Timpanogos Cave National Monument and Great Basin National Park. Horrocks is the current editor of the on-line publication, Inside Earth, the cave management newsletter for the National Park Service. He has been an NSS caver for 23 years, is an NSS Fellow, and was awarded the Certificate of Merit. He currently chairs the Cave Conservation and Management Section.

George N. Huppert, D.A., NSS #7717 CO FE
George Huppert, Doctor of Arts in Geography, was Professor of Geography and Earth Science at the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse until his death in 2001, having taught 23+ years. He started caving in 1959 with the Boy Scouts. He joined the NSS in 1964. Huppert worked for the renowned Jim Quinlan at Mammoth Cave National Park in 1975. His Master’s thesis was a study of the physical systems of Papoose Cave in Idaho. His Doctoral dissertation was a history of cave conservation in the U.S. Huppert shared his cave management and conservation expertise with Boy Scouts, students, and adults on hundreds of cave trips; and through his prolific publications and presentations at cave/karst conventions throughout North America and on five other continents. He was an invited member of the famous Explorer’s Club, and received the 1996 NSS
Conservation Award. He was an early proponent of the concept of Underground Wilderness. Huppert served on the Board of Directors of the American Cave Conservation Association from 1982 to 2001. He volunteered thousands of hours to the ACCA and NSS.

Jay R. Jorden, NSS #14356 RL FE
Jay Jordan has worked in the news business and public relations for nearly 30 years. A graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and University of Houston with journalism and law degrees, respectively, he has covered politics, courts, education, environmental issues and general assignments as a reporter and editor for Texas newspapers and The Associated Press. His freelance writings and photographs have also appeared in books and other publications worldwide. He is currently working in corporate marketing and communications for a Fortune 100 company. Jay has won a number of writing and editing awards during his career. As a volunteer, he chairs the NSS Cave Vandalism Deterrence Reward Commission and the NSS Public Relations Committee. Jay and his wife, Sheila, live in Celina, Texas with their son, Liam.

Jim Kennedy, NSS #26791 RL FE
Jim Kennedy ("Crash") is Cave Resources Specialist at Bat Conservation International (BCI) in Austin, Texas. He has been caving since 1973. At BCI he teaches Bat Conservation and Management workshops and Cave Gating work-shops. He advises federal and state land managers on cave and karst inventory and protection methods, promotes wise cave management, and coordinates a multi-state study of critical hibernacula for the endangered Indiana Bat. Kennedy is an NSS Fellow, former editor of the Texas Speleological Survey, past chairman of the Texas Speleological Association and Mid-Appalachian Region, and serves on the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium steering committee.

Ronal C. Kerbo, NSS #11539 HM FE
Ron Kerbo is the National Cave and Karst Management Coordinator for the U.S. National Park Service, working out of Denver, Colorado. He started diving in 1959 in gypsum karst sinkholes in New Mexico and started his NPS career at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in 1976 as the Park's cave specialist. Kerbo has been diving and caving for over 40 years, and is a 35+ year member of the NSS. He is currently an adjunct professor at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colorado teaching a course on the geology and evolution of caves.

Kathleen H. Lavoie, Ph.D., NSS #17033
Kathy Lavoie is a Professor of Biology and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh. She began caving in Indiana and quickly became interested in the life of the cave. She did her doctoral work with Tom Poulson, using the cave as a natural lab comparing the microbial and invertebrate communities in the deep cave vs. entrance areas. She studies cave cricket biology, microbiology, and invertebrate communities. Over the last ten years she has been active as part of the team of scientists studying Cueva de Villa Luz in southern Mexico. Lavoie has been an active member of NSS and CRF since the 1970s, has been an editor of the NABN, and represents the NSS biology section to the AAAS.

Thomas Lera, NSS #14821 RL FE
Thomas Lera has been caving for over 35 years and resides in Falls Church, Virginia. He authored Bats in Philately (1995), is a contributor to various journals and magazines including the American Philatelist, Journal of Cave and Karst Studies, Journal of Speleological History, NSS News, and American Caves. He is past Editor of The Underground Post, former Conservation Editor of the NSS Bulletin and is a contributing Editor to Speleophily International. He served as the Administrative Vice-President of the NSS for several years and is currently a Board Member of the Virginia Cave Board. Lera's articles and papers are available on the Web, including The Legal Protection of Caves and Bats which lists the cave and bat legislation in the United States.

Douglas M. Medville, NSS #70730 RL OS LB CM FE
Doug Medville is a retired research manager and is a member of several committees of the National Research Council, for which he is studying innovative technologies for the destruction of chemical weapons. He has an M.S. in Operations Research from New York University. Medville is a past Administrative Vice President of the National Speleological Society. In that capacity, he was responsible for the Society's activities in cave management, conservation, ownership, and education. His research has included the study of stratigraphic and structural controls on cave development in the Appalachians, alpine karst landforms in the northern Rockies, and the development of
lava tubes in the Hawaiian Islands. He is a Director of the National Speleological Society, the West Virginia Speleological Survey, and the Hawai‘i Speleological Survey.

**Paul J. Meyer, NSS #34328 RL FE**

Paul Meyer has been caving for approximately 12 years and is the conservation committee chair for the Huntsville Grotto and preserve manager for the NSS Shelta Cave property. He co-developed a cave formation repair technique with fellow caver John French and utilized these techniques in several caves of north Alabama. As preserve manager of Shelta, he was responsible for the successful effort to construct a perimeter fence around the cave in favor of the restrictive cave gates that had discouraged occupation of the cave by bats. Since the gates were removed in 2002, bats have been steadily returning to the cave. Professionally, he holds masters degrees in meteorology and computer science and works for NASA.

**Stephen R. Mosberg, M.D., NSS #20444 FE**

Stephen Mosberg started caving with the Boy Scouts in 1970 in Baltimore. After Medical School he relocated to West Virginia for a Residency in Family Practice. As a founding member of the Parkersburg Area Grotto (PAG), he was active in the exploration of the Nepal section of Scott Hollow Cave and, later, Lechuuguilla. He remains active in caving and cave rescue after changing professional venues to Emergency Medicine. A Fellow of the NSS and certified cavern diver, Mosberg serves as Chairman of the PAG, Chairman of the NSS Medical Section, Instructor and Medical Coordinator of NCRC, and Instructor, Eastern Region, NCRC. He has contributed to other NSS publications, including On Call and the NCRC text book.

**Diana E. Northup, Ph.D., NSS #11561 FE**

Diana Northup has been studying organisms that live in caves since 1984. She has a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of New Mexico (UNM). She and her colleagues on the SLIME (Subsurface Life In Mineral Environments) Team invest-gate microbial interaction with rock surfaces in caves and in desert varnish. Her research of cave microbial ecology using molecular and microscopy techniques has been featured on NOVA. Northup is a Professor Emerita at the University of New Mexico, lectures as a Visiting Associate Professor of Biology; teaches Communi-cating Science, the Freshman Learning Community, World of Microbes, and information search skills in the UNM Centennial Library. She and other UNM librarians are creating a Karst Information Portal with the University of South Florida and the National Cave and Karst Research Institute.

**Marc Ohms, NSS #31288 FE**

Marc Ohms is a Physical Science Technician at Wind Cave National Park, in the Black Hills of South Dakota where he assists in cave management duties and is responsible for air and water quality monitoring in the park. In 1989, he began caving in his home state of Iowa. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Platteville. Ohms is an NSS Fellow, chairman of the Paha Sapa Grotto since 1998, and is the Rocky Mountain Regional Coordinator of the National Cave Rescue Commission.

**Rick Olson, NSS #13432 FE**

Rick Olson is an ecologist at Mammoth Cave National Park. Over the past twelve years he has focused on ecological restoration in park caves, forests, prairies, and rivers. He is a Fellow of the Cave Research Foundation and the National Speleological Society, has authored many papers, and contributed to four books.

**William D. Orndorff, NSS #28413**

Wil Orndorff runs the Virginia Karst Program in the DCR Division of Natural Heritage, where he has worked since Y2K. A native of the Shenandoah Valley, Orndorff holds a B.S. from Johns Hopkins and a Masters Degree in Geology from Virginia Tech. Wil’s prior work experience includes a stint at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center studying riparian denitrification, service as interim professor of Geology and department chair of physical sciences at West Virginia’s Concord College, employment at the Princeton Review as a test preparation specialist, and performance of hydrological, biological, and environmental investigations in karst settings as a self-employed consultant. In addition to his work, he enjoys family life with his wife and 2 daughters, cave exploration, cycling, and music.

**Dale L. Pate, NSS #12704 FE**

Dale Pate began his caving career in the summer of 1970 in central Texas. In the fall 1970 he joined the Southwest Texas Grotto in San Marcos and became an NSS member in December 1970. Pate spent the next 21 years working in caves in Texas and Mexico before becoming the Cave Specialist at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in July 1991. For the past 15 years Pate has been involved with the cave and karst management of
this significant cave park with world-class cave resources including Carlsbad Cavern and Lechuguilla Cave.

Victor J. Poljak, Ph.D., NSS #26681 FE
Victor Poljak received his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University. He is a Research Scientist at the University of New Mexico. His studies focus on cave geology. He manages the Radiogenic Isotope Laboratory for Yemane Asmerom in the department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of New Mexico. Currently funded by the National Science Foundation, they use geochronology on speleo-thems to study paleoclimates of the southwestern U.S., as well as other regions globally. Poljak is co-founder of the Lubbock Area Grotto, and is an NSS Fellow. He and his wife, Paula Provencio, manage a Sandia Grotto volunteer project surveying lava tube caves for El Malpais National Monument, New Mexico.

Paula P. Provencio, NSS #38769 FE
Paula Provencio is a member of the technical staff at Sandia National Laboratories. Her work focuses on nano-structural, crystallographic, and compositional characterization of nano-scale materials using high resolution electron microscopy, and she applies her expertise to cave research projects. Provencio is an NSS Fellow and a member of the Sandia Grotto. She and her husband, Victor Poljak, manage a Sandia Grotto El Malpais National Monument lava tube cave survey and inventory project.

John E. Roth, NSS #45774 RL
John Roth has been caving since 1966. His 1977 thesis was on the effect of rock type on cave enlargement at Jewel Cave. He has taught cave groups ranging from junior high to the university level at Jewel, Carlsbad, Ape, and Oregon Caves. During the past 22 years, he has also been a resource manager at Carlsbad and Oregon Caves. Roth maintains cave bibliographies, directories, glossaries, and species lists for caves north of Mexico. Writings include ethnographic and ethnohistorical studies of caves and protocols for cave restoration, inventory, and monitoring.

Patricia E. Seiser, Ph.D., NSS #28650 FE
Pat Seiser has been caving since 1985. She has a Ph.D. in Cave and Karst Stewardship from West Virginia University. Her research focus was on cave wilderness. Pat currently works with the National Cave and Karst Research Institute, and serves as an adjunct professor at New Mexico Tech. She volunteers for the National Park Service, the US Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. In 1999, during National Women’s History Month, she was named as one of twenty women recognized for significant contributions via exploration, survey, conservation, and scientific work throughout the history of Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Seiser is an NSS Fellow. She has been an instructor for the National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) since 1998. She also serves as an advisor for the Speleo Venture Crew, a caving program for teens, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Bernard W. Szukalski, NSS #17780 RL FE
Bernard Szukalski is a senior staff member of Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) and lives in Redlands, California. Since joining ESRI in 1986 he has been involved in many aspects of geographic positions that have covered a broad spectrum of GIS projects and activities. In addition to other responsibilities, he is the ESRI Cave and Karst Program Manager. Szukalski started caving in 1976, and serves on the Board of Directors of the National Speleological Society, Cave Research Foundation, American Cave Conservation Association, and the Hawai’i Speleological Survey.

Michael Ray Taylor, NSS #21969
Michael Ray Taylor is a professor of mass media at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, where he lives with his wife and three sons. He is the author of the books Caves, Dark Life and Cave Passages. He has written about caves and cave conservation for Audubon, Outside, Reader’s Digest, National Geographic Traveler, Sports Illustrated, Wildlife Conservation and other magazines.

Rickard S. Toomey III, Ph.D., NSS #39607
Rick Toomey is the director of the Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning at Western Kentucky University and Mammoth Cave National Park. Previously he was the Science and Research Manager and Cave Resources Manager for Arizona State Parks. He has a B.S. in Geological Sciences from Brown University (1985) and a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences from The University of Texas at Austin (1993). His research includes cave paleontology, bats, and cave resource management. His work at Mammoth Cave has included work on reconstructing and restoring past cave environments. Toomey is a past president of the Cave Research Foundation and
the Illinois Speleological Survey. He worked on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ Karst Working Group in developing management policies and protection strategies.

**Jerry L. Trout, Ph.D, NSS #4279 RL FE**

Jerry Trout is the National Coordinator/Cave and Karst Resources for the USDA Forest Service, working out of Tucson, Arizona. He began caving in 1946. His career in cave management started in 1972 as the Cave Specialist for the Guadalupe Ranger District, Carlsbad, New Mexico. He teaches classes in Cave and Bat Management and Cave Conservation and Awareness at the University of Arizona, Cochise College, and Elderhostel, as well as government agencies and various civic and conservation organizations. Trout is a founding member of the Guadalupe Grotto, Eastern New Mexico University Student Grotto, and Cochise County Cavers, and was the former editor of the **Guadalupe Caver**. He is on the Board of Directors for National Cave and Karst Research Institute.

**George Veni, Ph.D., NSS #17322 RL CM FE**

George Veni is a caver and hydrogeologist specializing in caves and karst terrains. He received his Master’s degree from Western Kentucky University in 1985 and his Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University in 1994. Since 1987 he has owned and served as principal investigator of George Veni and Associates. He has explored caves and conducted extensive karst research throughout the United States and in other countries. He is President of the Texas Speleological Survey, past Executive Secretary of the NSS Cave Geology and Geography Section, and serves on the governing board of the International Union of Speleology. Veni is a doctoral committee advisor at The University of Texas and teaches karst geoscience courses as an adjunct professor for Western Kentucky University. He has published over 120 papers and 4 books on hydrogeology, biology, and environmental management in karst terrains.

**Jim C. Werker, NSS #31653 FE**

Jim Werker has been exploring caves for 40-plus years. During his 34-year career as a mechanical engineer at Sandia National Laboratories he worked in underground nuclear research and testing at the Nevada Test Site and applies that expertise to speleothem repair, environmental monitoring installations, and tool design for scientific experiments in cave environments. Since childhood, Werker wandered the mountains of New Mexico, exploring caves and mines. In the early 1980s, he started repairing speleothems in the Guadalupe Mountains. He and Val Hildreth-Werker have installed environmental photomonitoring systems in caves on federal, state, and private lands. They study exploration, conservation, and management in caves around the world and conduct workshops for land managers, cavers, and public outreach. Together, they co-chair the NSS Conservation Division.

**John M. Wilson, NSS #13112 RL OS FE**

John M. Wilson has worked professionally and as a volunteer for environmental and social welfare organizations since 1969. He as a B.A. from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and an M.Ed. from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has served as president of the Appalachian Cave Conservancy since 1977. He is the founder and the honorary president of the American Cave Conservation Association. Wilson has actively participated in many leadership roles in the National Speleological Society including sections, conservancies, committees, grottos, a commission, a region, a survey, an NSS executive officer, and member of the NSS Board of Governors. He was recognized as an NSS fellow in 1977 and with the William J. Stephenson Outstanding Service Award in 1997. He has published many studies and articles, and presented numerous papers at conventions and symposia.